National Consistent Collection of Data
School Students with Disability

SHOULD PARENTS NOT WISH FOR THEIR STUDENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NCCD THEY
ARE ADVISED TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE PRINCIPAL INDICATING THEIR WISH TO NOT
PARTICPATE IN 2015.

Information for Parents/Carers

Schools across Australia are taking part in a new national
data collection on school students with disability.

The data collection is being introduced in stages over
three years, and started in 2013. From 2015, this
information will be collected in every school across
Australia, every year.

All Australian governments have agreed to this.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?

All Australian governments agree that every child in an
Australian school should have a high quality education. It
shouldn’t matter what the individual child’s circumstances
are – every child should have the same opportunity to
succeed at school.

The aim of this new data collection is to have better
information about school students with disability in
Australia.

Better information about school students with disability will
help teachers, principals and education authorities to
support students with disability to take part in school on
the same basis as students without disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

There is nothing new about schools collecting information
about students with disability – in fact, schools have had to
do this by law for some time. But the type of information
currently collected varies between each state and territory.

With the new data collection, every school in Australia will
use the same method to collect this information – that is, a
government school in suburban Sydney will collect and
report data in the same way as a Catholic school in
country Victoria and an independent school in the
Northern Territory.

The information provided through this new national data
collection will enable all Australian governments to better
target support and resources to benefit students with
disability. It will help to put the right supports in place for
students with disability so that they have the same
opportunities for a high quality education as students
without a disability.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO?

Every school in Australia is likely to have a student with
disability at some point. Schools need to be able to
support students with disability by removing any obstacles
for them to participate in their education.

By law, schools are required to make reasonable
adjustments where needed to assist students with
disability. These responsibilities are outlined in the
Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability
Standards for Education 2005. This means that schools
need to talk to the student and/or their parent/carer about
reasonable adjustments. These are things the schools do
now and this won’t change.

The new data collection will record students who have
been identified by a school team as meeting the definition
of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992
and provided with an adjustment.

WHAT IS AN ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a
student with disability participate in education on the same
basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across
the whole school setting (like ramps into classrooms), in
the classroom and at an individual student level (like extra
tuition for a student with a learning difficulty).
WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?

Your child’s school will collect and report information every year about:

- the level of adjustment provided
- the number of students who receive each level of adjustment
- where known, the student’s broad type of disability.

Some students who are not provided with an adjustment at the time of the collection will meet the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and will be eligible to be included in the data collection.

WHO WILL COLLECT MY CHILD’S INFORMATION?

Teachers and other school staff from your child’s school will collect the above information based on:

- consultation with parents/carers
- the school team’s observations and professional judgements
- any medical diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for making sure that the information collected about each student is accurate.

HOW WILL MY CHILD’S PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all children and their families is very important. With the new data collection, this will be done in the following ways:

- Personal or confidential information will not be given to anyone not authorised to see it.
- When the information is sent by your child’s school to the local or federal education authority for combination with information from other schools, it will be by school only – student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.
- When the information is reported from 2016 onwards, it will be by school only – student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE DATA BE AVAILABLE?

When all Australian schools are taking part in the new data collection, the information will be reported on the My School website from 2016 onwards. It will be by school only – no student names are recorded as part of the data collection.

CAN I DECIDE WHETHER MY CHILD’S INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

It’s your decision about whether you want your child’s information to be included in the national reporting or not.

Including every school child who is being provided with an adjustment because of disability in this new national data collection each year will help schools, education authorities and governments to better meet students’ needs.

Your school will tell you what you need to do if you don’t want to have your child’s information included in the national data collection.

Even if your child’s information is not included in the national data collection, your school is still required to provide support to your child with disability and any adjustments that may be needed to help him/her participate at school.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your child’s school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and how it may affect your child.

You can also visit www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability

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